

Minutes

Lansing Historic District Commission 5:30-7:00 p.m. Monday, May 12, 2014 Planning and Neighborhood Development Conference Room 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing MI 48933

1. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. Winans opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m.
 - A. Introductions and Roll Call:

Present: Gretchen Cochran, Cassandra Nelson, Carol Skillings, Curtis Sonnenberg, Tom Truscott, Nathalie Winans, Kara Wood

Absent: Phil Mondro

Staff Present: Bill Rieske
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – It was moved by Ms. Skillings, seconded by Ms. Cochran, and CARRIED unanimously, to approve the agenda as printed.
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.
4. STAFF COMMENTS – None.
5. PRESENTATIONS – None.
6. HEARINGS (ADVERTISED) – None.
7. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – April 21, 2014. It was moved by Ms. Wood, seconded by Ms. Nelson, and CARRIED unanimously to approve the April 21 minutes as corrected.
8. COMMUNICATIONS – None.
9. DISCUSSION/ACTION:
 - A. Preserving the “best of the best”. Mr. Rieske distributed a printed copy of a PowerPoint with photos of those buildings deemed “outstanding” Mannik & Smith’s recent windshield survey completed as part of the 106 review. He asked the question “how do we preserve the best of the best?” A discussion ensued about the prospects of reviving the Capitol Historic District. The discussion weighed the various strategies (National Register or local districts, historical markers). By consensus, it was decided to invite Robert Christensen, from the SHPO, to the next HDC meeting, to advise the Commission on the best approach.
 - B. Updates: on:
 - 106 Review – see above.
 - Butler Corridor Walk, Chalk, Talk Event – Ms. Cochran reported on a creative walk-thru of the Butler Corridor, featuring ideas from several generations. One focus area for design improvements was the school bus stop, at which several buses converge. Follow-up events are being planned.
 - Genesee Street School – The SHPO has approved the renovation specifications for compliance with the Secretary’s Standards.

- Preservation Lansing (PL)
 - Eastern High School - Ms. Cochran, Ms. Winans, and Ms. Nelson reported on talks with the Lansing School District regarding Eastern High School. A discussion ensued about the future of the building, as well as the large open space that is part of the property. In the ensuing discussion, the adjustments needed to relocate classes to other locations, as well as the need to find a developer for an adaptive reuse project. Ms. Wood mentioned the Woda Group, which has experience in adapting old schools.
 - Preservation Awards – Ms. Cochran reported that PL is gearing up for its third awards ceremony, slated for October, with nominations closing August 1.
 - Salvage Summits – Ms. Cochran reported on the series of Salvage Summits she's been spearheading since late last year. The most recent one held last Friday morning featured Meegan Czop of Rebuilders' Exchange in Chicago. A discussion ensued about the various aspects of deconstruction, including public policies to allow deconstruction, and a training track to address the skills required for such work.
- Booklets/Brochures – Mr. Truscott volunteered to continue to distribute more booklets, and continue efforts to seek sponsorships.
- Form Based Code (FBC) project – Mr. Rieske reported on an FBC public workshop held last Thursday, at which the main topic was urban mixed-use (MXD) districts, building on the *Design Lansing* Comprehensive Plan, the Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability (MMPGS) charrettes, and the additional public input as part of the FBC project.

10. Other Business – None.

11. PENDING ITEMS: FUTURE ACTION REQUIRED – None.

12. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Truscott reported that a historical marker ceremony will take place at 119th St. Park on Thursday, May 22, from 2-4 p.m.

Ms. Cochran reported on two houses, formerly owned by the Ingham County Land Bank, being renovated according to the Secretary's Standards, enforced by with legally-binding restrictive covenants with Preservation Lansing.

13. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 9, 2014, in the PND Conference Room.